

Message Text

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14
ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 PM-04 INR-07 L-03 ACDA-05

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E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PFOR, NATO, MNUC
SUBJ: NUNN AMENDMENT REPORT, DECLASSIFICATION OF TABLE ON PAGE 6

REF: A. STATE 236879 DTG 040021Z OCT 75
B. USNATO 5388 DTG 031305Z OCT 75

THERE FOLLOWS BELOW THE TEXT OF A LETTER FROM THE FRG PERMREP TO THE U.S. PERMREP REGARDING FRG REACTION TO U.S. REQUEST TO DECLASSIFY THE TABLE ON PAGE 6 OF THE NUNN REPORT. THE LETTER IS VERY SIMILAR TO THE FRG POSITION PREVIOUSLY REPORTED IN REF B. HOWEVER, THE LAST SENTENCE OF THE LETTER OFFERS FRG ASSISTANCE IN REACHING MUTUALLY ACCEPTABLE FIGURES. ACTION REQUESTED: WASHINGTON GUIDANCE FOR RESPONDING TO THE FRG OFFER.

BEGIN TEXT:

THE LETTER BY MR. JOHN A. WOODWORTH DATED 26 SEPTEMBER 1975 IN WHICH HE ASKED A MEMBER OF MY DELEGATION WHETHER WE HAD ANY OBJECTION TO PROVIDE THE US CONGRESS WITH AN UNCLASSIFIED VERSION OF THE TABLE GIVING A SUMMARY OF NATO AND WARSAW PACT CONVENTIONAL FORCES HAS BEEN SUBMITTED TO ME.

MY GOVERNMENT'S OBJECTIONS TO DOING THIS HAVE ALREADY BEEN CONFIDENTIAL

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RAISED ORALLY WITH YOUR DELEGATION AS WELL AS IN BONN. I HAVE NOW BEEN ASKED TO FORWARD MY GOVERNMENT'S OFFICIAL COMMENTS.

WE UNDERSTAND THE DESIRE TO PROVIDE UNCLASSIFIED FIGURES TO THE CONGRESS ON THE COMPARATIVE NUMERICAL STRENGTHS OF THE

CONVENTIONAL FORCES OF NATO AND THE WARSAW PACT. HOWEVER, WE HAVE CONSIDERABLE DOUBTS CONCERNING THE WISDOM OF USING, FOR THIS PURPOSE, THE FIGURES CONTAINED IN THE A.M. TABLE.

WE ESSENTIALLY SHARE THE VIEWS EXPRESSED IN A LETTER BY THE UK DELEGATION DATED 30 SEPTEMBER 1975. THESE FIGURES ARE LIABLE TO LEAD TO PREMATURE AND UNJUSTIFIED CONCLUSIONS ON THE PART OF PARLIAMENTARY AS WELL AS GENERAL PUBLIC OPINION IN OUR COUNTRIES, WHICH MIGHT HAVE DETRIMENTAL EFFECTS ON NATO DEFENSE READINESS, ESPECIALLY THE WILLINGNESS TO PROVIDE THE NECESSARY FINANCIAL SUPPORT.

IN ADDITION, THE FIGURES IN QUESTION APPEAR TO BE IN CONFLICT WITH THE DEMANDS MADE BY DR. SCHLESINGER IN HIS SPEECH TO THE NATO PARLAMENTARIANS IN COPENHAGEN. IF THESE FIGURES WERE PUBLISHED, IT WOULD BECOME VERY DIFFICULT INDEED TO JUSTIFY THE STRENGTHENING OF NATO'S CONVENTIONAL FORCES, ESPECIALLY WITH REGARD TO THEIR PERSONNEL STRENGTH.

MOREOVER, THIS COMPARISON WOULD DECISIVELY WEAKEN OUR POSITION IN THE MBFR NEGOTIATIONS AND SUPPLY NEW AMMUNITION TO THE ARGUMENTS ALREADY USED BY THE WARSAW PACT COUNTRIES.

I HAVE BEEN TOLD THAT THE PUBLICATION OF THESE FIGURES HAS BEEN POSTPONED AS A RESULT OF OUR OBJECTIONS. MY AUTHORITIES ARE GRATEFUL FOR THIS QUICK RESPONSE. WE ARE PREPARED TO ENTER INTO A DISCUSSION ON A SUITABLE NUMERICAL COMPARISON.

END TEXT.STREATR

CONFIDENTIAL

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TAGS: PFOR, NATO, MNUC
To: STATE
SECDEF INFO CINCLANT
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